Government account during 1999-2000 so far. Government has imposed 50% duty on wheat imports w.e.f. 1.12.1999, which has checked the import of wheat on private account also.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Quantum of Wheat and Rice in FCI Godowns

†908. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of wheat and rice in the godowns of Food Corporation of India at the end of December, 1999 was more than that of the buffer stock;

(b) if so, what was the total quantum of this stock, separately and the year-wise quantum of wheat and rice purchased together with the purchase value; and

(c) whether Government have made estimates of the expenditure to be incurred for storage, if so, what was per ton expenditure of storage of Food Corporation of India during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The stock of wheat and rice in central pool, buffer norms and surplus stock as on 1.1.2000 are as under:—

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

	Stock held in Central Pool	Buffer Norms	Surplus stock in Central Pool
Wheat	171.70	84.00	87.70
Rice	141.82	84.00	57.82
Total	313.52	168.00	145.52

The quantity of wheat and rice purchased during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 21.1.2000) and their purchase value are as under:—

(Quantity in lakh tonnes & Amount in Rs. Crores)

1998-99

	Qty.	Amount
Wheat	126.51	6452
Paddy	63.43	2972
Rice	75.43	6136

1999-2000

	Qty	Amount
Wheat	141.43	7779
Paddy	86.58	4488
Rice	53.89	4797

(c) Yes, Sir. The estimated carrying cost of buffer stock during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rate per tonnes Per year (in Rs.)
1996-97 (Provisional)	1582.60
1997-98 (Provisional)	1728.90
1998-99 (Provisional)	1710.90

Financial Loss to FCI

†909. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is suffering a substantial financial loss in carrying out its liability of purchase and sale of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, what is the assessment of total financial loss during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) whether Government would bring out a white paper showing the income and expenditure of Food Corporation of India and also statement regarding spoilage of foodgrains and quantitative decline threin in godowns etc., in order to bring transparency in the functioning of the Corporation; and

(d) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Price at which the FCI, is required to purchase and supply/distribute the foodgrains for

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.